

Shiawassee River SGA Manager's Update

2015 Season - Week of 10/4



Weather

cool weather with strong NE winds couldn't have come at a better time here. The winds pushed a lot of new birds into the area and also provided us with great conditions for pumping. Minimal head pressure allowed us to pump very efficiently last week.

Waterfowl Abundance

This week's refuge count is just over 5000 ducks and 200 geese. Largest increase in bird use was mallards, a few more blacks and there were around 100 widgeon in the mix. We've added some more water to the refuges and fields the duck soup is now starting to brew.

Hunting Conditions

We are continuing to add water to the refuge marshes and have mowed all of the green browse planted areas as well as openings in zones 6-8. We started adding water to fields 6-8, 9-14, 40's, 55-60 and 61-66. Fields 6-8, 40's and 61-66 will be flooded for opening day as well as all of the marsh units. Fields 9-14 and 55-60 will be open but not flooded for the opener. Zones 1-5 and the 30's will remain closed until harvested.

Hunter Numbers

No waterfowl hunting on the area this week but there have been some archery hunters out there trying to harvest that elusive whitetail deer.

Waterfowl Harvest

The early goose season here was lackluster. We planted extra green browse to help attract Geese but it didn't seem to help harvest numbers any. The warm weather with tons of mosquitoes didn't help any.

What To Expect This Week

This week we will continue to flood the fields. By the opener on Saturday we will have 6-8, the 40's and 61-66 fields flooded.

Upcoming Events

N/A

Other Comments

We held our open house on October 1st with over 50 visitors attending. Great turn out with a lot of new faces in attendance.

I think we are on track for a very good season here. As I said earlier the stew is brewing now all we need is a little additive to make it great tasting.

